

TABLE 1

Decorations listed in order of precedence	Awarded for:		Awarded to:			
	Heroism	Achievement or service	Military		Civilian	
			United States	Foreign	United States	Foreign
Medal of Honor	Combat	n/a	War ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a.
Distinguished Service Cross	Combat	n/a	War	War	n/a	n/a.
Distinguished Service Medal	War	War & Peace	War & Peace	War & Peace	War ²	War. ²
Silver Star	Combat	n/a	War	War	War ²	War. ²
Legion of Merit	n/a	War & Peace	War & Peace	War & Peace ⁵	n/a	n/a.
Distinguished Flying Cross	Combat	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace	War	n/a	n/a.
Soldier's Medal	Noncombat	n/a	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	n/a	n/a.
Bronze Star Medal	Combat ³	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	n/a	n/a.
Purple Heart	For wounds received as the result of hostile action.	n/a	War & Peace ^{7, 8}	n/a	n/a	n/a.
Meritorious Service Medal	n/a	Peace & War ⁹	Peace	Peace	n/a	n/a.
Air Medal	Combat ³	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	War	War ²	War. ²
Army Commendation Medal	Noncombat	War	War & Peace ⁶	War & Peace ⁶	n/a	n/a.
Army Achievement Medal	Combat ³	Peace	Peace ⁶	Peace ⁶	n/a	n/a.
	n/a	War ^{6, 9}				

Notes:¹ The Medal of Honor is awarded only to U.S. military personnel.² Under limited circumstances. Recommendations will be forwarded to HQ, USA HRC for processing.³ Awarded with Bronze "V" Device for valor in combat.⁴ Awarded for peacetime when no formal war has been declared but the U.S. is engaged in military operations against an armed enemy.⁵ Awarded to foreign military personnel in one of four degrees.⁶ Not awarded to general officers.⁷ Awarded to military personnel wounded by terrorists or while members of a peacekeeping force.⁸ Approval authority is the Secretary of the Army.⁹ Authorized for award in a combat theater for non-combat meritorious service and achievement.**§ 578.5 Award recommendations.**

(a) It is the responsibility and privilege of any individual having personal knowledge of an act, achievement, or service believed to warrant the award of a decoration to submit a recommendation for consideration. It is usually desirable that the intended recipient not be informed of a pending recommending or given an implied promise of an award prior to final approval and clearance. This is especially true when the intended recipient is a foreigner.

(b) The Department of the Army (DA) Form 638 (Recommendation for Award) will be used to initiate, process and approve award recommendations of all U.S. Army individual decorations, to include valor and heroism decorations.

(c) Narrative description of meritorious service or achievement for awards of the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM), and Army Achievement Medal (AAM) will be limited to

bullet format in the space allowed on the DA Form 638. Bullet format or narratives may be used for the Legion of Merit (LM). Narratives are required for all other awards and will be added as an addendum to the recommendation. Narrative should be prepared on 8½ by 11-inch bond paper and is limited to one double-spaced typewritten page except for recommendations of the Distinguished Service Medal and above. Narratives for valor must contain a description of the following elements: Terrain and weather of the area in which the action took place; enemy conditions, to include morale, proximity, firepower, casualties and situation prior to, during and after the act; the effect of the act on the enemy; the action of comrades in the immediate vicinity of the act and the degree of their participation in the act; if the act occurred in aerial flight, the type and position of the aircraft and the individual's crew position; the degree to which the act was voluntary; the degree to

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which the act was outstanding and exceeded what was normally expected of the individual; all unusual circumstances; and overall effects or results of the act.

(d) Heroism award recommendations will contain statements of eye-witnesses, preferably in the form of certificates, affidavits, or sworn statements; extracts from official records; sketches; maps; diagrams; photographs; and so forth, which support and amplify stated facts for the heroism award.

(e) Recommendations will be forwarded through command channels to the commander authorized to approve or disapprove it. Each intermediate commander/supervisor will recommend approval or disapproval, and cite specific reasons whenever disapproval is recommended.

(f) Except for the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 1130 outlined in paragraph (g) of this section and lost awards, each recommendation for an award of a military decoration must be entered administratively into military channels within 2 years of the act, achievement, or service to be honored. Submission into military channels is defined as "signed by the initiating official and

endorsed by a higher official in the chain of command."

(g) Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1130, a Member of Congress can request consideration of a proposal for the award or presentation of decoration (or the upgrading of a decoration), either for an individual or unit, that is not otherwise authorized to be presented or awarded due to limitations established by law or policy. Based upon such review, the Secretary of the Army shall make a determination as to the merits of approving the award or presentation of the decoration and other determinations necessary to comply with congressional reporting under 10 U.S.C. 1130.

§ 578.6 Wartime criteria.

Wartime criteria, by whom awarded. The Medal of Honor is awarded only by the President. Other decorations are awarded by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army. When wartime conditions erupt, authority to further delegate decorations approval authority will be requested from the Secretary of the Army. Initial delegation will be requested consistent with the award approval authority outlined in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2

Delegation of Award Approval—Wartime Criteria

The primary purpose of this table is to outline the various awards and decorations approval authorities for use during the immediate stages of Army combat operations. Once delegated, this authority is reviewed every 30, 60, or 90 days during combat operations to determine if further delegation is expedient and justified. Wartime delegation is withdrawn from approval authorities upon redeployment of the unit. This table is not absolute and is subject to change as necessary by the Secretary of the Army. Award approval levels outlined in Table 3 are applicable to Table 2.

Awards	Approval authority	May further delegate	Awarded to
Medal of Honor	President of the United States	N/A	U.S. military personnel.
DSC & all lesser decorations ..	Secretary of the Army or others as designated by the Secretary of the Army.	N/A	a. U.S. Army Active and Reserve Component personnel. b. U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard personnel with concurrence of the appropriate Service Secretary.
DSC, SS, LM, DFC and SM	CG of a U.S. Army Force (Serving in the rank of General) (See note 1).	MG and BG commanders (BG must be serving in MG position), commanders of separate units, may award the BSM, AM, and ARCOM (See note 2).	U.S. Army personnel and members of the other armed services and members of the armed forces of forces of friendly foreign nations in the ranks comparable to the grade of O-6 (COL) or lower provided concurrence is obtained from that Service or foreign government.